

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

MAY 19, 1860.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. JOHNSON, of Arkansas, made the following

REPORT.

[To accompany bill S. 454.]

*The Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred the petition of Deborah Stevens Witham, having had the same under consideration, respectfully report:*

That upon the said petition being referred to the Department of the Interior, the following answer was received by your committee:

"The petition of Deborah Stevens Witham, praying the passage of a law authorizing the issue of a land warrant to her in lieu of warrant No. 5,943, issued under the act of 27th July, 1842, and which warrant was *not located*, for the reason that the act authorizing its location has expired by limitation of law.

"The warrant in question was issued in pursuance of the provisions of the act of February 8, 1854, which, together with other intermediate acts, *revived and continued in force the act of 27th July, 1842*; the provisions of which, as to the *issuing and location of warrants* of the class in question, *expired June 26, 1858*.

"In the opinion of this office, as there are many warrants of a similar character outstanding and unsatisfied, *no special legislation* should be had; but I would respectfully suggest, as a matter of justice and equity, that the said act of 27th July, 1842, should be *revived and extended, to take effect from 26th June, 1858*.

"In addition to the various outstanding unlocated warrants, there are now on the files of this office *forty-seven warrants* granted for services in the war of 1812, calling for 7,680 acres, and issued under the same act, which *have been located*, and these are now *suspended*, for the reason that they were *located after the 26th June, 1858*, and, without further legislation in regard thereto, the same will not be available for any purpose whatever."

In view of the fact that the Secretary of the Interior, in his annual reports for the years 1858 and 1859, recommended the indefinite revival of the foregoing acts, which expired June 26, 1858, (being the same under which the petitioner claims,) your committee have reported a bill reviving said laws without limitation, and giving relief in all similar cases, and recommend its passage.

